

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 19, 1968

MEMO FOR MR. ROSTOW

In view of the unusual redeployment yesterday of 200 Soviet Tactical Air Force fighters back to the Czech border, the attached message takes on added significance.

David Y. McManis

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ALL LIAISON OPERATIONS BY AN-12 AND AN-26 AIRCRAFT. A UNITED STATES  
SFGS "AUTHORIZED" DIVISION ALSO WAS REPORTED ENROUTE TO PRAGUE  
VIA SLAVY. CONTINUOUS FLIGHTS OF AN-12 TO THE BRIDGE AREA ARE BELIEVED  
TO BE TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE PT-76 TANKS AND STR-40  
PERSONNEL CARRIERS. OTHER CZECH AREAS WHICH ARE PROBABLY UNDER  
SOVIET CONTROL INCLUDE LSH, PRNO, JAMAYKA VETRAVA, PRIMAN  
AND ZATEC.

THE SOVIETS HAVE IMPRESSED SOME CIVILIAN CS-2R TRUCKS FOR  
TROOP TRANSPORT. ONLY SPORADIC SMALL ARMS FIRE HAS BEEN REPORTED  
IN THE 24 HOURS PRIOR TO LOCAL TIME: HOWEVER, AT 0755 HOURS  
INTERMITTENT SMALL ARMS FIRE WITH HEAVY SUSTAINED AUTOMATIC  
WEAPONS FIRE WAS REPORTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE SOLE RADIO  
STATION IN PRAGUE REMAINING IN GOVERNMENT HANDS.

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REPORTS BY RELIABLE COLLATERAL SOURCES PLACE UNDER SOVIET  
TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AT 0800. IT IS THEREFORE LIKELY THAT THE SOVIET  
UNITS OF TRANSPORT ARE BEING SENT INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 0800  
AND PROBABLY IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

IN EAST GERMANY APPEARS TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT WOULD  
BE CONSIDERED SUPPORT MISSIONS: TROOP SPLITTING, AIR DEFENSE  
COVER, AND PROBABLY CLOSE IN GROUND FORCES SHUTTLEWORK. THREE  
INDEPENDENT RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENTS APPARENTLY HAVE  
BEEN CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS BOTH NEAR AND OVER THE CZECH  
BORDER. THIRD FIGHTER DIVISION AT MERSBURG WAS APPARENTLY  
SUPPLYING THE AIR DEFENSE COVER. NO ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER  
OF FIGHTER AND FIGHTER BOMBER AIRCRAFT THAT HAVE FLOWN INTO  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME: HOWEVER,

IN ADDITION, A RELIABLE OBSERVER HAS REPORTED  
SOVIET AIRCRAFT LANDING AT MACHOVSKY AIRFIELD

~~TOP SECRET~~

[3]